



Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 29

JUNE, 1979

NUMBER 5



Rev. Collie Seymour with
Conference Minister

Ordination Anniversaries Celebrated

Two Southeast Conference pastors recently were honored with celebrations on the anniversary of their ordination to the Christian ministry.

Celebrating 35 years in the ordained ministry was Rev. Collie Seymour, until May 31 pastor of Belvidere, TN UCC. In a special service held at the Belvidere church on April 29, Rev. Seymour was presented with a pectoral cross similar to that presented to UCC President Avery Post. Conference Minister, W.J. Andes, participated in the service.

Rev. Seymour was ordained in 1944 in the Lanett, AL, UCC. Following completion of studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School, he has served pastorates in Alabama, Northwest Florida, Kentucky and North Carolina before going to Belvidere on September 1, 1974. Rev. and Mrs. Seymour are the parents of five children. They have two grandchildren. As of June 1, Rev. Seymour has taken a new pastorate in Virginia.

A celebration was also held on May 6 at

[Continued on Page 4]

Uplands to Expand Facilities and Services

Heritage Hall, formerly known as the Craft Shop, has been deeded over to the Uplands Retirement Center by the UCC Community Church of Pleasant Hill, TN. With this generous gift, Uplands has drawn up plans to completely refurbish this sturdy native stone historic landmark structure. Thanks to a long term, low interest loan from the Farmers Home Administration, Heritage Hall will become a hub of the Uplands Retirement Center. It will provide space for the administrative and church offices and include dining area, community recreation area, craft shops and a garage area for Uplands equipment.

This will also free space in the Wharton Nursing Home for much needed additional rooms and self-care living units. The initial refurbishing of Heritage Hall should get started by mid-1979, and represents another big step forward at the Uplands Retirement Center.

Uplands is an agency for the UCC Health and Welfare Services. No funds are received from either the Board for World Ministries or the Board for Homeland Ministries, so many projects are only possible through individual and church financial support. Your help is needed! Those wishing to contribute, or learn more about various opportunities, may address correspondence to Uplands, Inc., Pleasant Hill, Tennessee 38578.

Rev. Homer McEwen Retired After 33 Years

Rev. Homer McEwen retired this spring after a 33 year tenure as pastor of First Congregational Church, UCC in Atlanta, GA.

Born in Mississippi, Rev. McEwen came to Atlanta in 1946 intending to stay about three years. But the needs of the black constituency in Atlanta impelled him to

[Continued on Page 3]



REV. DON BUNDY

Ministers Enjoy Sumatanga

Some 34 ministers and spouses gathered at Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, AL Monday through Wednesday, April 30 - May 2, 1979 for the Southeast Conference Minister's Convocation. An annual event, this year's Convocation again featured a time for relaxation, recreation, fellowship as well as continuing education.

This year four guest speakers were in residence, the first of which was Rev. Don Bundy, head of the UCC Pension Boards who spoke about "Security for the Minister's Family" in his uniquely humorous fashion. Rev. Ralph Quellhorst, also from New York, and a staff member of the Office for Church Life and Leadership presented "Stages, Passages, Cycles and Issues of Ministry" which increased the awareness of what a minister should face in career evaluations.

Following an address on stewardship by Conference Staff members, Rev. Ed Mehlhaff, Rev. Joyce Myers, of the Atlanta office of the Office for Church Life and Leadership, presented "Lifelong Learning for Ministries and Spouses."

The Convocation was punctuated by laughter when Ole Thermometer U. presented degrees of dubious merit to Collie Seymour, Ralph Quellhorst, Ed

[Continued on Page 3]



Participants in the 1979 Minister's & Spouses Convocation.

HELP FOR ANDHRA PRADESH NEEDED

On the 12th of May an out-of-season cyclone hit some of the same areas in Andhra Pradesh, India, that were struck by the cyclone and tidal wave of November, 1977. With a wind speed of 150 km per hour, the cyclone claimed 21 lives as well as rendering 800,000 people homeless. Cattle, crops, roads and communications were all destroyed in a 40 km wide stretch along the coast. Some 150,000 people have been evacuated.

The World Council of Churches has already sent \$100,000 in disaster relief. These funds need to be replaced and additional relief dollars are badly needed to aid the victims of this disaster — a disaster which received very little coverage by the American press.

Relief funds can be forwarded in care of UCBWM, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027.

OGHS Funds Spell R-E-L-I-E-F

Ever wonder what happens to the funds received from the special One Great Hour of Sharing all-church offering?

Well, consider how the funds were put to use during just one month of this year. During the money of May the United Church Board for World Ministries made the following grants for disaster relief:

- \$2000 - Tornado disaster relief in Oklahoma/Texas
- \$2000 - Mississippi Flood Relief
- \$2000 - Alabama Flood Relief
- \$2000 - Yugoslavia Earthquake Relief
- \$2000 - Flood Relief in Florida
- \$2000 - Flood Relief in Missouri Conference

Your gifts to OGHS and to Our Christian World Mission are needed throughout the world. Please continue to give as generously as you have in the past.

Happenings at Sweetwater First

Holy Week at First Congregational Church, UCC in Sweetwater, TN, was filled with a number of memorable services.

On Palm Sunday the church school and youth of the church presented the story of Easter in story, recitations, drama and music. An evening service of Tennebrae was celebrated on Good Friday with readings from the passion narrative and extinguishing of candles. Seven musical selections were given by the senior choir during this service.

The Easter Sunday celebration was complimented by a warm and beautiful day, given color and fragrance by the dogwood and azaleas in bloom.

The church is in the process of forming a youth group of young people between the ages of 13-18 with hopes of having the SEC Youth Core provide leadership and help.

Rev. William Hamilton is the church's pastor.

—Yubenia Prigmore

The 'Family' Is Not Dead, but Changing

In a recent edition of *The Journal of Current Social Issues* (Winter, 1977), published by the United Church Board of Homeland Ministries, Dr. Paul H. Sherry asks, "Is the family dead?" "No," he answers, but without doubt the traditional family is "hurting." *ISSUES* goes on to present a variety of "family portraits" that illustrate the variety of relationships that today bear the name, "family."

Last month, many churchgoers did consider the "Christian Family" in the observations of Christian Family Week (May 6-13) and the celebrations of the Festival of the Christian Home (May 13). You may want to press beyond the exaltation of traditional family values to explore how these values relate to the growing number of single persons in our congregations and communities, to single-parent families, and to the temporary and experimental "family" relationships that touch an ever-increasing number of us. If, as Dr. Sherry suggests, the "family is the vital cell of any society," your study will engage issues that "may determine our country's continuance as a viable society."

Copies of *ISSUES* (Winter, 1977) are available from *The Journal of Current Social Issues* at \$3.75 each. For further help in understanding what's happening to family life in the United States, write Dr. Nanette Roberts, Family Life and Alternative Life-Styles Issue Group, UCBHM, 287 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010.



Convocation speaker Rev.
Ralph Quellhorst

McEwen [Continued from Page 1]

stay. As a result, First Church found itself in the forefront of the race relations movement in Atlanta. Under Rev. McEwen's leadership First Church organized boycotts to prompt integration efforts in the early 60's. Rev. McEwen himself helped to enroll the first black student of Georgia Tech. In recent years, the church has been a center for resistance to the state in its attempt to freeze welfare and assistance payments.

Arriving at a time when the majority of First Church's youth were leaving the city, Rev. McEwen has witnessed his church grow to hold 7 of the 10 young people it produces.

In retiring, the McEwen's pace of life doesn't appear to be slowing down a bit. Rev. McEwen is working on finishing a novel — continuing to write some more poetry (he's already written five volumes) — and, with his wife, Maxell, he plans to visit with his four children and seven grandchildren who live in Atlanta.

Convocation . . .

[Continued from Page 1]

Mehlhoff and Maxell McEwen.

Bill and Carey Andes led the closing worship and communion service entitled "Reminiscing and Hoping."

Next year's Convocational Committee, composed of Margaret and Gene Keen, Jean and George Fidler, Jean and Hank Tuttle and other ministerial families in that area, will be faced with the challenge of registering a minimum of 50 persons for next year's event — the minimum number to make the event financially feasible.

The Southeast News

Second-Class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

Publication Number USPS — 504480

Published monthly October and
November; February to July, inclusive;
bi-monthly August-September and
December-January, by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
The United Church of Christ

2676 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30329
Telephone (404) 633-5655

Subscription Rate — \$1.00 per year

Vol. 29 June, 1979 No. 5

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to
P.O. Box 29833, Atlanta, Ga. 30359



MIDWAY, GA, CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Midway, Ga., Congregational Church, UCC

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing our coastal churches is Midway Congregational Church, UCC in Midway, GA whose origin can be traced back to a parent church organized in Dorchester, Massachusetts in 1630.

In 1695, a group of these Dorchester, MA, residents formed a southbound colony, organized a church and migrated to South Carolina, settling upon the Ashley River, some 18 miles above Charleston. The name of the new settlement — Dorchester.

In 1752, the same colony, children and grandchildren of the original settlers, decided upon a second migration. Securing a grant of 32,000 acres of land from the Legislature of Georgia, 280 whites and 536 slaves moved to a point half-way between the Altamaha and Ogeechee Rivers. This settlement was called Midway. Here the Dorchester Midway Congregational Church was established, its membership composed of slaves and slaveholders. During the course of its existence, 1,238 Blacks were members of this church. For a brief period following the Civil War, Blacks constituted the entire membership.

A young Congregationalist minister

came to Midway in 1872. There he found the people attending religious services under a busharbor. This minister, Rev. Floyd Snelson and 103 members — most of them former members of "Old Midway" — formally assembled under the name of the Congregational Church of Midway. On July 27, 1874, this body of worshippers was extended the hand of Christian fellowship. A Church building — costing \$2,000 — was built on the grounds of Dorchester Academy.

Through the years the church and the Academy worked together until the Academy was closed in 1940. The relationship of church and school became the relationship of church and center under the pastorate of Rev. Percel O. Alston.

Plans for the erection of a new building became a reality when, in 1962-63, the new edifice was constructed, furnished and dedicated.

The present minister, the Rev. James A. Eaton, came in January, 1966. Under his leadership the church has experienced much growth: additional members, many physical improvements to the sanctuary, greater youth involvement on official boards. In 1974, the dream of an educational building became a reality.

In addition to being involved in all phases of the work of the local church, the youth of Midway are very active in the Youth Core Ministry of the Southeast Conference.

The church is still closely related to Dorchester Center through leaders of the church who serve on its official board.

—Lillie W. Gillard

N-E-W-S and N-O-T-E-S

Tom Schroeder, last year's Youth Advisor for Pilgrim Church in Chattanooga, is engaged to be married to Beverly Luedeke on November 24. Tom is presently working as a part-time intern at Zion UCC, Sheboigan, WI.

Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN took the blue ribbon for contributions by Conference churches to Uplands Retirement Center. Community Church's total contribution: \$2,886.25.

Mr. Mark Deaton, a rising senior at Union Theological Seminary (Richmond) will serve Circular Congregational Church, Charleston, SC this summer as a part-time ministry intern.

Charter Sunday for Button Gwinnett United Church of Christ, a new church start in Lilburn, GA (near Atlanta), will be held on Sunday, June 3 at the high school across from the newly purchased church property.

The Children's Choir of the Elon Home for Children, Elon, NC presented a concert at Lanett Congregational-Christian UCC, Lanett, AL on May 9, 1979.

Rev. Wilson Welch, pastor of Howard Congregational UCC in Nashville, TN retired as a Professor of Religion and Philosophy from Fisk University at Commencement Exercises this past May. Rev. Welch was presented a plaque for his 30 years of service to Fisk. He will continue to teach at Fisk, but on a year to year basis. He has also been appointed as the University's representative to the Division of Higher Education of the UCC.

The new address of Rev. Collie Seymour, former pastor of Belvidere, TN, UCC is: Vernon Hill, VA 24597. The pulpit of the Belvidere church will be supplied by a number of ministers until an interim pastor is located.

Thirty-three parents, sponsors and students participated in a "hunger happening" held at Central Congregational UCC in Atlanta, GA. The event was staged by the 6th and 7th grade classes who made both bread and vegetable soup.

Priscilla Garrett and Steven Hudder were married at St. John's UCC in Cullman, AL on June 1, 1979. Steve served as Youth Core Coordinator of the South-

east Conference 1978-79. Our thanks to him for his leadership and best wishes to both he and Priscilla.

Brooklawn School for Children needs donations to help their children attend summer camp: \$55 for a week's stay. Contributions may be forwarded to Brooklawn at 2125 Goldsmith Lane, Louisville, KY 40232.

Ministers and laypersons of the East Alabama Association were visitors at the East Alabama District Convention of the Christian Church (Disciples) held at First Christian Church in Fairfax, AL on Sunday, May 6.

Saxon Scarborough, part-time youth advisor at Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Chattanooga was honored on May 13 for his year of service. Members of the youth group presented him with a copy of the Harvard Dictionary of Music.

Rev. Lee Gable and his wife, Anna of Pleasant Hill, TN have been appointed for a period of nine months to serve as missionary associates of the UCBWM at the Sendai International School, Sendai, Japan. The appointment begins on September 1, 1979.

One of the earliest sources of American folk art is to be found on the tombstones in the graveyard of Circular Congregational UCC in Charleston, SC. Two lectures on the significance of the tombstones were delivered in May and were made possible by a grant from the South Carolina Committee for the Humanities.

Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN dedicated its new church organ — an Allen Modified Digital Computer Organ, Classic 20 — at a special service of worship on Sunday, May 6.

Central Congregational UCC in Atlanta, GA has completed an intensive 20-week study of church membership. The findings were reported in a denominational publication.

Ordination . . .

[Continued from Page 1]

Atlanta, GA, Central Congregational Church, UCC commemorating the 50th



Bennett Floyd presenting a check to Rev. Warren Blankenhorn

Continuing Education Funds Presented

Bennett Floyd, Treasurer of the Oak Grove Foundation, recently presented to Southern Alabama Area Minister, Warren Blankenhorn, a check in the amount of \$1,500 for scholarships for continuing education for area ministers.

Ministers from all of our Associations participated in last year's Summer Institute of Religion held at LaGrange College, LaGrange, GA.

The Summer Institute of Religion will be held this year June 11-15 at LaGrange College. For further details, write to Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, P.O. Box 773, Phenix City, AL 36867.

anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Frederick A. Meyer, former pastor of Central Church. The service was highlighted by clergy members of Central who processed into the sanctuary wearing robes, stoles and hoods. Rev. Meyer and his wife, Mary, had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Rev. Meyer is a native of New York City where he did his undergraduate work at Columbia University and his seminary training at Union Theological Seminary. He has served pastorates in Vermont, New York, and Minneapolis before coming to Atlanta. He also served for three years as Central Regional Director of the Christian Educational Fund of the Congregational-Christian Churches.

Since retirement, the Meyers have been busy with six interim ministries. The Meyers have one son living in Cambridge, MA.